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Middle East Situation Report #35
(as of 1100 EST, 13 February 1984)

LEBANON/SYRIA

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[Redacted] Amal leader Barri is working hard to maintain order in West Beirut and forestall a total US withdrawal there. Barri fears a complete pullout could prompt a Lebanese Army attack, supported by US forces offshore, into West Beirut. There is no movement toward a political accommodation. [Redacted]

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[Large redacted area]

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[Redacted]

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Opposition leaders probably will dismiss as a stalling tactic President Gemayel's 28-point reform package announced last weekend, especially since he avoided publicly abrogating the 17 May withdrawal accord.

-- Ironically, the reforms mentioned by Gemayel address many of the demands long held by the Muslims and Druze.



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IRAN-IRAQ WAR

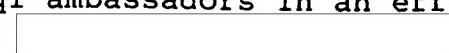
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Both sides attacked enemy cities over the weekend resulting in civilian casualties, according to press reports.



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-- The exchange of attacks on civilian targets is likely to escalate in intensity, especially if Iran launches its expected ground offensive. Japan has indicated that it will not withdraw its technicians from the Bandar-e Khomeini complex, but Tokyo today called in both the Iranian and Iraqi ambassadors in an effort to avoid further attacks.



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DDI/NESA/AI&PG [redacted] (13Feb84)

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